

Senate Bill No. 2194

CHAPTER 831

An act to amend Sections 1522, 1568.02, 1568.09, 1569.17, and 1569.725 of, and to add Section 1507.1 to, the Health and Safety Code, relating to community care.

[Approved by Governor September 24, 1998. Filed
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LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 2194, C. Wright. Residential care facilities: home health care.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of community care facilities, residential care facilities for persons with chronic, life-threatening illness, and residential care facilities for the elderly, administered by the State Department of Social Services.

Existing law also provides for the licensure and regulation of home health agencies.

Existing law authorizes the State Department of Social Services to prohibit a residential care facility for the elderly licensee from employing, or continuing the employment of, or allowing the engagement in other specified acts by, an employee or prospective employee who has committed or engaged in certain prohibited acts, including those persons providing assistance in dressing, grooming, bathing, or personal hygiene.

Existing law requires home health aides and nurse assistants to submit fingerprint cards to the State Department of Health Services in order to obtain criminal records clearances.

This bill would provide that any nurse assistant or home health aide meeting the criminal record clearance requirements for employment in facilities licensed by the State Department of Health Services would be deemed to meet these existing criminal record clearance requirements of community care facilities, residential care facilities for persons with chronic, life-threatening illness, and residential care facilities for the elderly.

Existing law authorizes a residential care facility for the elderly to provide incidental medical care through a home health agency, as defined, when certain conditions are met.

This bill would refer, instead, to providing incidental medical "services." The bill also would authorize an adult community care facility to permit incidental medical services to be provided through a home health agency in the manner prescribed by the bill.

Existing law, the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act, provides procedures governing the acquisition and use of an

authorization for the disclosure of medical information by a health care provider.

This bill would permit the sharing of client or resident information between a home health agency and an adult community care facility or a residential care facility relative to the patient's condition and the care and treatment provided to the patient including medical information, as defined by the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act.

Since a violation of residential care for the elderly licensure provisions is a crime, the bill would, by creating a new crime, impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 1507.1 is added to the Health and Safety Code, to read:

1507.1. (a) An adult community care facility may permit incidental medical services to be provided through a home health agency licensed pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 1725) when all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The facility, in the judgment of the department, has the ability to provide the supporting care and supervision appropriate to meet the needs of the client receiving care from a home health agency.

(2) The home health agency has been advised of the regulations pertaining to adult community care facilities and the requirements related to incidental medical services being provided in the facility.

(3) There is evidence of an agreed-upon protocol between the home health agency and the adult community care facility. The protocol shall address areas of responsibility of the home health agency and the adult community care facility and the need for communication and the sharing of client information related to the home health care plan. Client information may be shared between the home health agency and the adult community care facility relative to the client's medical condition and the care and treatment provided to the client by the home health agency, including, but not limited to, medical information defined by the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act, Part 2.6 (commencing with Section 56) of Division 1 of the Civil Code.

(4) There is ongoing communication between the home health agency and the adult community care facility about the services

provided to the client by the home health agency and the frequency and duration of care to be provided.

(b) Nothing in this section is intended to expand the scope of care and supervision for an adult community care facility, as prescribed by this chapter.

(c) Nothing in this section shall require any care or supervision to be provided by the adult community care facility beyond that which is permitted in this chapter.

(d) The department shall not be responsible for the evaluation of medical services provided to the client of the adult community care facility by the home health agency.

(e) Any regulations, policies, or procedures related to sharing client information and development of protocols, established by the department pursuant to this section, shall be developed in consultation with the State Department of Health Services and persons representing home health agencies and adult community care facilities.

SEC. 2. Section 1522 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1522. The Legislature recognizes the need to generate timely and accurate positive fingerprint identification of applicants as a condition of issuing licenses, permits, or certificates of approval for persons to operate or provide direct care services in a community care facility, foster family home, or a certified family home. Therefore, the Legislature supports the use of the fingerprint live-scan technology, as identified in the long-range plan of the Department of Justice for fully automating the processing of fingerprints and other data by the year 1999, otherwise known as the California Crime Information Intelligence System (CAL-CII), to be used for applicant fingerprints. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this section to require the fingerprints of those individuals whose contact with community care clients may pose a risk to the clients' health and safety.

(a) Before issuing a license or special permit to any person or persons to operate or manage a community care facility, the State Department of Social Services shall secure from an appropriate law enforcement agency a criminal record to determine whether the applicant or any other person specified in subdivision (b) has ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation or arrested for any crime specified in Section 290 of the Penal Code, for violating Section 245 or 273.5, subdivision (b) of Section 273a or, prior to January 1, 1994, paragraph (2) of Section 273a of the Penal Code, or for any crime for which the department cannot grant an exemption if the person was convicted and the person has not been exonerated. That criminal history information shall include the full criminal record, of any of those persons, and subsequent arrest information pursuant to Section 11105.2 of the Penal Code. No fee

shall be charged by the Department of Justice or the State Department of Social Services for the fingerprinting of an applicant for a license or special permit to operate a facility providing nonmedical board, room, and care for six or less children or for obtaining a criminal record of the applicant pursuant to this section. The following shall apply to the criminal record information:

(1) If the State Department of Social Services finds that the applicant, or any other person specified in subdivision (b), has been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the application shall be denied, unless the director grants an exemption pursuant to subdivision (g).

(2) If the State Department of Social Services finds that the applicant, or any person specified in subdivision (b), is awaiting trial for a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the State Department of Social Services shall cease processing the application until the conclusion of the trial.

(3) If no criminal record information has been recorded, the Department of Justice shall provide the applicant and the State Department of Social Services with a statement of that fact.

(4) If the State Department of Social Services finds after licensure that the licensee, or any other person specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), has been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the license may be revoked, unless the director grants an exemption pursuant to subdivision (g).

(5) An applicant and any other person specified in subdivision (b) shall submit a second set of fingerprints to the Department of Justice for the purpose of searching the criminal records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in addition to the criminal records search required by this subdivision. If an applicant and persons listed in subdivision (b) meet all other conditions for licensure, except receipt of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's criminal history information for the applicant and persons listed in subdivision (b), the department may issue a license if the applicant and each person described by subdivision (b) has signed and submitted a statement that he or she has never been convicted of a crime in the United States, other than a traffic infraction as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 42001 of the Vehicle Code. If, after licensure, the department determines that the licensee or person specified in subdivision (b) has a criminal record, the license may be revoked pursuant to Section 1550. The department may also suspend the license pending an administrative hearing pursuant to Section 1550.5.

(b) In addition to the applicant, this section shall be applicable to criminal convictions of the following persons:

(1) Adults responsible for administration or direct supervision of staff.

(2) Any person, other than a client, residing in the facility.

(3) Any person who provides client assistance in dressing, grooming, bathing, or personal hygiene. Any nurse assistant or home health aide meeting the requirements of Section 1338.5 or 1736.6, respectively, who is not employed, retained, or contracted by the licensee, and who has been certified or recertified on or after July 1, 1998, shall be deemed to meet the criminal record clearance requirements of this section. A certified nurse assistant and certified home health aide who will be providing client assistance and who falls under this exemption shall provide one copy of his or her current certification, prior to providing care, to the adult community care facility. The facility shall maintain the copy of the certification on file as long as care is being provided by the certified nurse assistant or certified home health aide at the facility. Nothing in this paragraph restricts the right of the department to exclude a certified nurse assistant or certified home health aide from a licensed community care facility pursuant to Section 1558.

(4) (A) Any staff person, volunteer, or employee who has contact with the clients. A volunteer shall be exempt from the requirements of this subdivision if the volunteer is a relative of a client in care at the facility and is not used to replace or supplement staff in providing direct care and supervision of clients.

(B) A volunteer in an adult residential facility shall be exempt from the requirements of this subdivision if he or she is a relative, significant other, or close friend of a client receiving care in the facility and the volunteer is not used to replace or supplement staff in providing direct care and supervision of clients.

(5) If the applicant is a firm, partnership, association, or corporation, the chief executive officer or other person serving in like capacity.

(6) Additional officers of the governing body of the applicant, or other persons with a financial interest in the applicant, as determined necessary by the department by regulation. The criteria used in the development of these regulations shall be based on the person's capability to exercise substantial influence over the operation of the facility.

(c) (1) Subsequent to initial licensure, any person specified in subdivision (b) and not exempted from fingerprinting shall, as a condition to employment, residence, or presence in a community care facility, be fingerprinted and sign a declaration under penalty of perjury regarding any prior criminal convictions. The licensee shall submit these fingerprints to the Department of Justice, along with a second set of fingerprints for the purpose of searching the records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or to comply with paragraph (1) of subdivision (h), prior to the person's employment, residence, or initial presence in the community care facility. These fingerprints shall be on a card provided by the State Department of Social Services for the purpose of obtaining a permanent set of

fingerprints and shall be submitted to the Department of Justice by the licensee or sent by electronic transmission in a manner approved by the State Department of Social Services. A licensee's failure to submit fingerprints to the Department of Justice, or to comply with paragraph (1) of subdivision (h), as required in this section, shall result in the citation of a deficiency and an immediate assessment of civil penalties in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) per violation. The department may assess civil penalties for continued violations as permitted by Section 1548. The fingerprints shall then be submitted to the State Department of Social Services for processing. Upon request of the licensee, who shall enclose a self-addressed stamped postcard for this purpose, the Department of Justice shall verify receipt of the fingerprints.

(2) Within 14 calendar days of the receipt of the fingerprints, the Department of Justice shall notify the State Department of Social Services of the criminal record information, as provided for in subdivision (a). If no criminal record information has been recorded, the Department of Justice shall provide the licensee and the State Department of Social Services with a statement of that fact within 14 calendar days of receipt of the fingerprints. Documentation of the individual's clearance or exemption shall be maintained by the licensee and be available for inspection. If new fingerprints are required for processing, the Department of Justice shall, within 14 calendar days from the date of receipt of the fingerprints, notify the licensee that the fingerprints were illegible. When live-scan technology is operational, as defined in Section 1522.04, the Department of Justice shall notify the department, as required by that section, and notify the licensee by mail within 14 days of electronic transmission of the fingerprints to the Department of Justice if the person has no criminal history recorded. A violation of the regulations adopted pursuant to Section 1522.04 shall result in the citation of a deficiency and an immediate assessment of civil penalties in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) per violation. The department may assess civil penalties for continued violations as permitted by Section 1548.

(3) Except for persons specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), the licensee shall endeavor to ascertain the previous employment history of persons required to be fingerprinted under this subdivision. If it is determined by the State Department of Social Services, on the basis of the fingerprints submitted to the Department of Justice, that the person has been convicted of, or is awaiting trial for, a sex offense against a minor, or has been convicted for an offense specified in Section 243.4, 273a, or 273d or subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 368 of the Penal Code, or a felony, the State Department of Social Services shall notify the licensee to act immediately to terminate the person's employment, remove the person from the community care facility, or bar the person from



entering the community care facility. The State Department of Social Services may subsequently grant an exemption pursuant to subdivision (g). If the conviction or arrest was for another crime, except a minor traffic violation, the licensee shall, upon notification by the State Department of Social Services, act immediately to either (1) terminate the person's employment, remove the person from the community care facility, or bar the person from entering the community care facility; or (2) seek an exemption pursuant to subdivision (g). The State Department of Social Services shall determine if the person shall be allowed to remain in the facility until a decision on the exemption is rendered. A licensee's failure to comply with the department's prohibition of employment, contact with clients, or presence in the facility as required by this paragraph shall be grounds for disciplining the licensee pursuant to Section 1550.

(4) The department may issue an exemption on its own motion pursuant to subdivision (g) if the person's criminal history indicates that the person is of good character based on the age, seriousness, and frequency of the conviction or convictions. The department, in consultation with interested parties, shall develop regulation to establish the criteria to grant an exemption pursuant to this paragraph.

(5) Concurrently with notifying the licensee pursuant to paragraph (3), the department shall notify the affected individual of his or her right to seek an exemption pursuant to subdivision (g). The individual may seek an exemption only if the licensee terminates the person's employment or removes the person from the facility after receiving notice from the department pursuant to paragraph (3).

(d) (1) Before issuing a license, special permit, or certificate of approval to any person or persons to operate or manage a foster family home or certified family home as described in Section 1506, the State Department of Social Services or other approving authority shall secure from an appropriate law enforcement agency a criminal record to determine whether the applicant or any person specified in subdivision (b) has ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation or arrested for any crime specified in Section 290 of the Penal Code or arrested for violating Section 245 or 273.5, subdivision (b) of Section 273a or, prior to January 1, 1994, paragraph (2) of Section 273a of the Penal Code, or for any crime for which the department cannot grant an exemption if the person was convicted and the person has not been exonerated. That criminal history information shall include the full criminal record, if any, of those persons. No fee shall be charged by the Department of Justice or the State Department of Social Services for the fingerprinting of an applicant for a license, special permit, or certificate of approval described in this subdivision. The record, if any, shall be taken into

consideration when evaluating a prospective applicant. The following shall apply to the criminal record information:

(A) If the applicant or other persons specified in subdivision (b) have convictions that would make the applicant's home unfit as a foster family home or a certified family home, the license, special permit, or certificate of approval shall be denied.

(B) If the State Department of Social Services finds that the applicant, or any person specified in subdivision (b) is awaiting trial for a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the State Department of Social Services or other approving authority shall cease processing the application until the conclusion of the trial.

(C) For the purposes of this subdivision, a criminal record clearance provided under Section 8712 of the Family Code may be used by the department or other approving agency.

(D) An applicant for a foster family home license or to be certified as a family home, and any other person specified in subdivision (b), shall submit a second set of fingerprints to the Department of Justice for the purpose of searching the criminal records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in addition to the criminal records search required by subdivision (a). If an applicant meets all other conditions for licensure, except receipt of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's criminal history information for the applicant and persons listed in subdivision (b), the department may issue a license, or the foster family agency may issue a certificate of approval, if the applicant and each person described by subdivision (b) has signed and submitted a statement that he or she has never been convicted of a crime in the United States, other than a traffic infraction as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 42001 of the Vehicle Code. If, after licensure or certification, the department determines that the licensee, certified foster parent, or person specified in subdivision (b) has a criminal record, the license may be revoked pursuant to Section 1550 and the certificate of approval revoked pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 1534. The department may also suspend the license pending an administrative hearing pursuant to Section 1550.5.

(2) Any person specified in this subdivision shall, as a part of the application, be fingerprinted and sign a declaration under penalty of perjury regarding any prior criminal convictions or arrests for any crime against a child, for spousal or cohabitant abuse, or any crime for which the department cannot grant an exemption if the person was convicted and shall submit these fingerprints to the licensing agency or other approving authority.

(3) (A) The foster family agency shall obtain fingerprints from certified home applicants and from persons specified in subdivision (b) and shall submit them directly to the Department of Justice or send them by electronic transmission in a manner approved by the State Department of Social Services. A foster home licensee or foster

family agency shall submit these fingerprints to the Department of Justice, along with a second set of fingerprints for the purpose of searching the records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or to comply with paragraph (1) of subdivision (h) prior to the person's employment, residence, or initial presence. A licensee's failure to submit fingerprints to the Department of Justice, or to comply with paragraph (1) of subdivision (h), as required in this section, shall result in the citation of a deficiency, and the immediate assessment of civil penalties of one hundred dollars (\$100) per violation. The State Department of Social Services may assess civil penalties for continued violations, as permitted by Section 1548. The fingerprints shall then be submitted to the State Department of Social Services for processing.

(B) Upon request of the licensee, who shall enclose a self-addressed stamped envelop for this purpose, the Department of Justice shall verify receipt of fingerprints. Within five working days of the receipt of the criminal record or information regarding criminal convictions from the Department of Justice, the department shall notify the applicant of any criminal arrests or convictions. If no arrests or convictions are recorded, the Department of Justice shall provide the foster home licensee or the foster family agency with a statement of that fact concurrent with providing the information to the State Department of Social Services.

(4) If the State Department of Social Services finds that the applicant, or any other person specified in subdivision (b), has been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the application shall be denied, unless the director grants an exemption pursuant to subdivision (g).

(5) If the State Department of Social Services finds after licensure or the granting of the certificate of approval that the licensee, certified foster parent, or any other person specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), has been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the license or certificate of approval may be revoked by the department or the foster family agency, whichever is applicable, unless the director grants an exemption pursuant to subdivision (g). A licensee's failure to comply with the department's prohibition of employment, contact with clients, or presence in the facility as required by paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) shall be grounds for disciplining the licensee pursuant to Section 1550.

(e) The State Department of Social Services shall not use a record of arrest to deny, revoke, or terminate any application, license, employment, or residence unless the department investigates the incident and secures evidence, whether or not related to the incident of arrest, that is admissible in an administrative hearing to establish conduct by the person that may pose a risk to the health and safety of any person who is or may become a client. The State Department of Social Services is authorized to obtain any arrest or conviction

records or reports from any law enforcement agency as necessary to the performance of its duties to inspect, license, and investigate community care facilities and individuals associated with a community care facility.

(f) (1) For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, a conviction means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action which the State Department of Social Services is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, notwithstanding a subsequent order pursuant to Sections 1203.4 and 1203.4a of the Penal Code permitting the person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, information, or indictment. For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, the record of a conviction, or a copy thereof certified by the clerk of the court or by a judge of the court in which the conviction occurred, shall be conclusive evidence of the conviction. For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, the arrest disposition report certified by the Department of Justice, or documents admissible in a criminal action pursuant to Section 969b of the Penal Code, shall be prima facie evidence of the conviction, notwithstanding any other provision of law prohibiting the admission of these documents in a civil or administrative action.

(2) For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, the department shall consider criminal convictions from another state or federal court as if the criminal offense was committed in this state.

(g) (1) After review of the record, the director may grant an exemption from disqualification for a license or special permit as specified in paragraphs (1) and (4) of subdivision (a), or for a license, special permit, or certificate of approval as specified in paragraphs (4) and (5) of subdivision (d), or for employment, residence, or presence in a community care facility as specified in paragraphs (3), (4), and (5) of subdivision (c), if the director has substantial and convincing evidence to support a reasonable belief that the applicant and the person convicted of the crime, if other than the applicant, are of such good character as to justify issuance of the license or special permit or granting an exemption for purposes of subdivision (c). Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, no exemption shall be granted pursuant to this subdivision if the conviction was for an offense specified in Section 220, 243.4, or 264.1, subdivision (a) of Section 273a or, prior to January 1, 1994, paragraph (1) of Section 273a, Section 273d, 288, or 289, subdivision (a) of Section 290, or subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 368 of the Penal Code, or was a

conviction of another crime against an individual specified in subdivision (c) of Section 667.5 of the Penal Code. The director may grant an exemption if the employee or prospective employee, who was convicted of a crime against an individual prescribed in paragraph (1), (2), (7), or (8) of subdivision (c) of Section 667.5 of the Penal Code, has been rehabilitated as provided in Section 4852.03 of the Penal Code, has maintained the conduct required in Section 4852.05 of the Penal Code for at least 10 years, and has the recommendation of the district attorney representing the employee's county of residence, or if the employee or prospective employee has received a certificate of rehabilitation pursuant to Chapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 4852.01) of Title 6 of Part 3 of the Penal Code.

(2) The department shall not prohibit a person from being employed or having contact with clients in a facility on the basis of a denied criminal record exemption request or arrest information unless the department complies with the requirements of Section 1558.

(h) (1) For purposes of compliance with this section, the department may permit an individual to transfer a current criminal records clearance, as defined in subdivision (a), from one facility to another, as long as the criminal record clearance has been processed through a state licensing district office, and is being transferred to another state licensing district office. The request shall be in writing to the department, and shall include a copy of the person's driver's license or valid identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, or a valid photo identification issued by another state or the United States government if the person is not a California resident. Upon request of the licensee, who shall enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for this purpose, the department shall verify whether the individual has a clearance that can be transferred.

(2) The State Department of Social Services shall hold criminal record clearances in its active files for a minimum of two years after an employee is no longer employed at a licensed facility in order for the criminal record clearance to be transferred.

(i) The full criminal record obtained for purposes of this section may be used by the department or by a licensed adoption agency as a clearance required for adoption purposes.

(j) If a licensee or facility is required by law to deny employment or to terminate employment of any employee based on written notification from the state department that the employee has a prior criminal conviction or is determined unsuitable for employment under Section 1558, the licensee or facility shall not incur civil liability or unemployment insurance liability as a result of that denial or termination.



(k) (1) The Department of Justice shall coordinate with the State Department of Social Services to establish and implement an automated live-scan processing system for fingerprints in the district offices of the Community Care Licensing Division of the State Department of Social Services by July 1, 1999. These live-scan processing units shall be connected to the main system at the Department of Justice by July 1, 1999, and shall become part of that department's pilot project in accordance with its long-range plan. The State Department of Social Services may charge a fee for the costs of processing a set of live-scan fingerprints.

(2) The Department of Justice shall provide a report to the Senate and Assembly fiscal committees, the Assembly Human Services Committee, and to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee by April 15, 1999, regarding the completion of backlogged criminal record clearance requests for all facilities licensed by the department and the progress on implementing the automated live-scan processing system in the district offices pursuant to paragraph (1).

(l) Amendments to the provisions of this section made in the 1998 calendar year shall be implemented commencing 60 days after the effective date of the act amending this section in the 1998 calendar year, except those provisions for the submission of fingerprints for searching the records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which shall be implemented commencing January 1, 1999.

SEC. 3. Section 1568.02 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1568.02. (a) The department shall license residential care facilities for persons with chronic, life-threatening illness under a separate category.

(b) The licensee of every facility required to be licensed pursuant to this chapter shall provide the following basic services for each resident:

(1) Room and board. No more than two residents shall share a bedroom, except that the director, in his or her discretion, may waive this limitation.

(2) Access to adequate common areas, including recreation areas and shared kitchen space with adequate refrigerator space for the storage of medications.

(3) Consultation with a nutritionist, including consultation on cultural dietary needs.

(4) Personal care services, as needed, including, but not limited to, activities of daily living. A facility may have a written agreement with another agency to provide personal care services, except that the facility shall be responsible for meeting the personal care needs of each resident.



(5) Access to case management for social services. A facility may have a written agreement with another agency to provide case management.

(6) Development, implementation, and monitoring of an individual services plan. All health services components of the plan shall be developed and monitored in coordination with the home health agency and shall reflect the elements of the resident's plan of treatment developed by the home health agency.

(7) Intake and discharge procedures, including referral to outplacement resources.

(8) Access to psychosocial support services.

(9) Access to community-based and county services system.

(10) Access to a social and emotional support network of the resident's own choosing, within the context of reasonable visitation rules established by the facility.

(11) Access to intermittent home health care services in accordance with paragraph (1) of subdivision (c).

(12) Access to substance abuse services in accordance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (c).

(13) Adequate securable storage space for personal items.

(c) The licensee of every facility required to be licensed pursuant to this chapter shall demonstrate, at the time of application, all of the following:

(1) Written agreement with a licensed home health agency. Resident information may be shared between the home health agency and the residential care facility for persons with chronic, life-threatening illness relative to the resident's medical condition and the care and treatment provided to the resident by the home health agency including, but not limited to, medical information, as defined by the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act, Part 2.6 (commencing with Section 56) of Division 1 of the Civil Code. Any regulations, policies, or procedures related to sharing resident information and development of protocols, established by the department pursuant to this section, shall be developed in consultation with the State Department of Health Services and persons representing home health agencies and residential care facilities for persons with chronic, life-threatening illness.

(2) Written agreement with a psychosocial services agency, unless the services are provided by the facility's professional staff.

(3) Written agreement with a substance abuse agency, unless the services are provided by the facility's professional staff.

(4) Ability to provide linguistic services for residents who do not speak English.

(5) Ability to provide culturally appropriate services.

(6) Ability to reasonably accommodate residents with physical disabilities, including, but not limited to, residents with motor

impairments, physical access to areas of the facility utilized by residents, and access to interpreters for hearing-impaired residents.

(7) Written nondiscrimination policy which shall be posted in a conspicuous place in the facility.

(8) Written policy on drug and alcohol use, including, but not limited to, a prohibition on the use of illegal substances.

(d) Any facility licensed pursuant to this chapter which intends to serve a specific population, such as women, family units, minority and ethnic populations, or homosexual men or women, shall demonstrate, at the time of application, the ability and resources to provide services that are appropriate to the targeted population.

(e) No facility licensed pursuant to this chapter shall house more than 25 residents, except that the director may authorize a facility to house up to 50 residents.

(f) If the administrator is responsible for more than two facilities, the facility manager shall meet the qualifications of both the administrator and the facility manager, as described in Sections 87864 and 87864.1 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations.

(g) Each licensee shall employ additional personnel as necessary to meet the needs of the residents and comply with the requirements of this chapter and the regulations adopted by the department pursuant to this chapter. On-call personnel shall be able to be on the facility premises within 30 minutes of the receipt of a telephone call.

SEC. 4. Section 1568.09 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1568.09. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this section to require the fingerprints of those individuals whose contact with residents of residential care facilities for persons with a chronic, life-threatening illness may pose a risk to the residents' health and safety.

Therefore, the Legislature supports the use of the fingerprint live-scan technology, as identified in the long-range plan of the Department of Justice for fully automating the processing of fingerprints and other data by the year 1999, otherwise known as the California Crime Information Intelligence System (CAL-CII), to be used for applicant fingerprints. It is the intent of the Legislature, in enacting this section, to require the fingerprints of those individuals whose contact with community care clients may pose a risk to the clients' health and safety.

(a) Before issuing a license to any person or persons to operate or manage a residential care facility, the department shall secure from an appropriate law enforcement agency a criminal record to determine whether the applicant or any other person specified in subdivision (b) has ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation or arrested for any crime specified in Section 290 of the Penal Code, for violating Section 245 or 273.5, subdivision (b) of Section 273a or, prior to January 1, 1994, paragraph (2) of Section 273a



of the Penal Code, or for any crime for which the department cannot grant an exemption if the person was convicted and the person has not been exonerated. That criminal history information shall include the full criminal record, if any, of those persons, and subsequent arrest information pursuant to Section 11105.2 of the Penal Code. The following shall apply to the criminal record information:

(1) If the State Department of Social Services finds that the applicant or any other person specified in subdivision (b) has been convicted of a crime, other than a minor traffic violation, the application shall be denied, unless the director grants an exemption pursuant to subdivision (f).

(2) If the State Department of Social Services finds that the applicant, or any person specified in subdivision (b) is awaiting trial for a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the State Department of Social Services shall cease processing the application until the conclusion of the trial.

(3) If no criminal record information has been recorded, the Department of Justice shall provide the applicant and the State Department of Social Services with a statement of that fact.

(4) If the State Department of Social Services finds after licensure that the licensee, or any other person specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), has been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the license may be revoked, unless the director grants an exemption pursuant to subdivision (f).

(5) An applicant and any other person specified in subdivision (b) shall submit to the Department of Justice a second set of fingerprints for the purpose of searching the records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in addition to the search required by this subdivision. If an applicant meets all other conditions for licensure, except receipt of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's criminal history information for the applicant and persons listed in subdivision (b), the department may issue a license if the applicant and each person described by subdivision (b) has signed and submitted a statement that he or she has never been convicted of a crime in the United States, other than a traffic infraction as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 42001 of the Vehicle Code. If, after licensure, the department determines that the licensee or person specified in subdivision (b) has a criminal record, the license may be revoked pursuant to subdivision (a) of Section 1568.82. The department may also suspend the license pending an administrative hearing pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 1568.82.

(b) In addition to the applicant, the provisions of this section shall be applicable to criminal convictions of the following persons:

(1) Adults responsible for administration or direct supervision of staff of the facility.

(2) Any person, other than a resident, residing in the facility.

(3) Any person who provides resident assistance in dressing, grooming, bathing, or personal hygiene. Any nurse assistant or home health aide meeting the requirements of Section 1338.5 or 1736.6, respectively, who is not employed, retained, or contracted by the licensee, and who has been certified or recertified on or after July 1, 1998, shall be deemed to meet the criminal record clearance requirements of this section. A certified nurse assistant and certified home health aide who will be providing client assistance and who falls under this exemption shall provide one copy of his or her current certification, prior to providing care, to the residential care facility for persons with chronic, life-threatening illness. The facility shall maintain the copy of the certification on file as long as care is being provided by the certified nurse assistant or certified home health aide at the facility. Nothing in this paragraph restricts the right of the department to exclude a certified nurse assistant or certified home health aide from a licensed residential care facility for persons with chronic, life-threatening illness pursuant to Section 1568.092.

(4) (A) Any staff person, volunteer, or employee who has contact with the residents.

(B) A volunteer shall be exempt from the requirements of this subdivision if he or she is a relative, significant other, or close friend of a client receiving care in the facility and the volunteer does not provide direct care and supervision of residents. A volunteer who provides direct care and supervision shall be exempt if the volunteer is a resident's spouse, significant other, close friend, or family member and provides direct care and supervision to that resident only at the request of the resident.

(5) If the applicant is a firm, partnership, association, or corporation, the chief executive officer or other person serving in that capacity.

(6) Additional officers of the governing body of the applicant, or other persons with a financial interest in the applicant, as determined necessary by the department by regulation. The criteria used in the development of these regulations shall be based on the person's capability to exercise substantial influence over the operation of the facility.

(c) (1) (A) Subsequent to initial licensure, any person specified in subdivision (b) and not exempted from fingerprinting shall, as a condition to employment, residence, or presence in a residential care facility, be fingerprinted and sign a declaration under penalty of perjury regarding any prior criminal convictions. The licensee shall submit these fingerprints to the Department of Justice, along with a second set of fingerprints, for the purpose of searching the records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or to comply with paragraph (1) of subdivision (g), prior to the person's employment, residence, or initial presence in the residential care facility.



(B) These fingerprints shall be on a card provided by the State Department of Social Services for the purpose of obtaining a permanent set of fingerprints and submitted to the Department of Justice by the licensee or sent by electronic transmission in a manner approved by the State Department of Social Services. A licensee's failure to submit fingerprints to the Department of Justice, or to comply with paragraph (1) of subdivision (g), as required in this section, shall result in the citation of a deficiency and an immediate assessment of civil penalties in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) per violation. The State Department of Social Services may assess civil penalties for continued violations as allowed in Section 1568.0822. The fingerprints shall then be submitted to the State Department of Social Services for processing. The licensee shall maintain and make available for inspection documentation of the individual's clearance or exemption.

(2) (A) Paragraph (1) shall cease to be implemented when the State Department of Social Services adopts emergency regulations pursuant to Section 1522.04, and shall become inoperative when those regulations become final.

(B) A violation of the regulations adopted pursuant to Section 1522.04 shall result in the citation of a deficiency and an immediate assessment of civil penalties in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) per violation. The department may assess civil penalties for continued violations as permitted by Section 1568.0822.

(3) Within 14 calendar days of the receipt of the fingerprints, the Department of Justice shall notify the State Department of Social Services of the criminal record information, as provided for in this subdivision. If no criminal record information has been recorded, the Department of Justice shall provide the licensee and the State Department of Social Services with a statement of that fact within 14 calendar days of receipt of the fingerprints. If new fingerprints are required for processing, the Department of Justice shall, within 14 calendar days from the date of receipt of the fingerprints, notify the licensee that the fingerprints were illegible. When live-scan technology is operational, as defined in Section 1522.04, the Department of Justice shall notify the department, as required by that section, and shall notify the licensee by mail within 14 days of electronic transmission of the fingerprints to the Department of Justice, if the person has no criminal history record.

(4) Except for persons specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), the licensee shall endeavor to ascertain the previous employment history of persons required to be fingerprinted under this subdivision. If it is determined by the State Department of Social Services, on the basis of the fingerprints submitted to the Department of Justice, that the person has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor, an offense specified in Section 243.4, 273a, or 273d, subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 368 of the Penal Code, or a



felony, the department shall notify the licensee to act immediately to terminate the person's employment, remove the person from the residential care facility, or bar the person from entering the residential care facility. The department may subsequently grant an exemption pursuant to subdivision (f). If the conviction was for another crime, except a minor traffic violation, the licensee shall, upon notification by the department, act immediately to either (1) terminate the person's employment, remove the person from the residential care facility, or bar the person from entering the residential care facility; or (2) seek an exemption pursuant to subdivision (f). The department shall determine if the person shall be allowed to remain in the facility until a decision on the exemption is rendered. A licensee's failure to comply with the department's prohibition of employment, contact with clients, or presence in the facility as required by this paragraph shall be grounds for disciplining the licensee pursuant to Section 1568.082.

(5) The department may issue an exemption on its own motion pursuant to subdivision (f) if the person's criminal history indicates that the person is of good character based on the age, seriousness, and frequency of the conviction or convictions. The department, in consultation with interested parties, shall develop regulations to establish the criteria to grant an exemption pursuant to this paragraph.

(6) Concurrently with notifying the licensee pursuant to paragraph (4), the department shall notify the affected individual of his or her right to seek an exemption pursuant to subdivision (f). The individual may seek an exemption only if the licensee terminates the person's employment or removes the person from the facility after receiving notice from the department pursuant to paragraph (4).

(d) (1) For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, a conviction means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action which the department is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of the sentence, notwithstanding a subsequent order pursuant to Sections 1203.4 and 1203.4a of the Penal Code permitting that person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, information, or indictment. For purposes of this chapter, the record of a conviction, or a copy thereof certified by the clerk of the court or by a judge of the court in which the conviction occurred, shall be conclusive evidence of the conviction. For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, the arrest disposition report certified by the Department of Justice, or documents admissible in a criminal action pursuant to Section 969b of the Penal Code, shall be



prima facie evidence of the conviction, notwithstanding any other provision of law prohibiting the admission of these documents in a civil or administrative action.

(2) For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, the department shall consider criminal convictions from another state or federal court as if the criminal offense was committed in this state.

(e) The State Department of Social Services shall not use a record of arrest to deny, revoke, or terminate any application, license, employment, or residence unless the department investigates the incident and secures evidence, whether or not related to the incident of arrest, that is admissible in an administrative hearing to establish conduct by the person that may pose a risk to the health and safety of any person who is or may become a client. The State Department of Social Services is authorized to obtain any arrest or conviction records or reports from any law enforcement agency as necessary to the performance of its duties to inspect, license, and investigate community care facilities and individuals associated with a community care facility.

(f) (1) After review of the record, the director may grant an exemption from disqualification for a license as specified in paragraphs (1) and (4) of subdivision (a), or for employment, residence, or presence in a residential care facility as specified in paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) of subdivision (c) if the director has substantial and convincing evidence to support a reasonable belief that the applicant and the person convicted of the crime, if other than the applicant, are of such good character as to justify issuance of the license or special permit or granting an exemption for purposes of subdivision (c). However, no exemption shall be granted pursuant to this subdivision if the conviction was for an offense specified in Section 220, 243.4, or 264.1, subdivision (a) of Section 273a or, prior to January 1, 1994, paragraph (1) of Section 273a, Section 273d, 288, or 289, subdivision (a) of Section 290, or subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 368 of the Penal Code, or was a conviction of another crime against an individual specified in subdivision (c) of Section 667.5 of the Penal Code.

(2) The department shall not prohibit a person from being employed or having contact with clients in a facility on the basis of a denied criminal record exemption request or arrest information unless the department complies with the requirements of Section 1568.092.

(g) (1) For purposes of compliance with this section, the department may permit an individual to transfer a current criminal records clearance, as defined in subdivision (a), from one facility to another, as long as the criminal record clearance has been processed through a state licensing district office, and is being transferred to another state licensing district office. The request shall be in writing

to the department, and shall include a copy of the person's driver's license or valid identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, or a valid photo identification issued by another state or the United States government if the person is not a California resident. Upon request of the licensee, who shall enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for this purpose, the department shall verify whether the individual has a clearance that can be transferred.

(2) The State Department of Social Services shall hold criminal records clearances in its active files for a minimum of two years after an employee is no longer employed at a licensed facility in order for the criminal records clearance to be transferred.

(h) If a licensee or facility is required by law to deny employment or to terminate employment of any employee based on written notification from the state department that the employee has a prior criminal conviction or is determined unsuitable for employment under Section 1568.092, the licensee or facility shall not incur civil liability or unemployment insurance liability as a result of that denial or termination.

(i) (1) The Department of Justice shall charge a fee sufficient to cover its cost in providing services to comply with the 14-day requirement contained in subdivision (c) for provision to the department of criminal record information.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall cease to be implemented when the department adopts emergency regulations pursuant to Section 1522.04, and shall become inoperative when permanent regulations are adopted under that section.

(j) Amendments to the provisions of this section made in the 1998 calendar year shall be implemented commencing 60 days after the effective date of the act amending this section in the 1998 calendar year, except those provisions for the submission of fingerprints for searching the records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which shall be implemented commencing January 1, 1999.

SEC. 5. Section 1569.17 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1569.17. The Legislature recognizes the need to generate timely and accurate positive fingerprint identification of applicants as a condition of issuing licenses, permits, or certificates of approval for persons to operate or provide direct care services in a residential care facility for the elderly. The Legislature supports the use of the fingerprint live-scan technology, as identified in the long-range plan of the Department of Justice for fully automating the processing of fingerprints and other data by the year 1999. It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this section to require the fingerprints of those individuals whose contact with clients of residential care facilities for the elderly may pose a risk to the clients' health and safety.

(a) Before issuing a license to any person or persons to operate or manage a residential care facility for the elderly, the department shall secure from an appropriate law enforcement agency a criminal record to determine whether the applicant or any other person specified in subdivision (b) has ever been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation or arrested for any crime specified in Section 290 of the Penal Code, for violating Section 245 or 273.5, subdivision (b) of Section 273a or, prior to January 1, 1994, paragraph (2) of Section 273a of the Penal Code, or for any crime for which the department cannot grant an exemption if the person was convicted and the person has been exonerated. That criminal history information shall include the full criminal record, if any, of those persons, and subsequent arrest information pursuant to Section 11105.2 of the Penal Code. The following shall apply to the criminal record information:

(1) If the State Department of Social Services finds that the applicant or any other person specified in subdivision (b) has been convicted of a crime, other than a minor traffic violation, the application shall be denied, unless the director grants an exemption pursuant to subdivision (f).

(2) If the State Department of Social Services finds that the applicant, or any person specified in subdivision (b) is awaiting trial for a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the State Department of Social Services shall cease processing the application until the conclusion of the trial.

(3) If no criminal record information has been recorded, the Department of Justice shall provide the applicant and the State Department of Social Services with a statement of that fact.

(4) If the State Department of Social Services finds after licensure that the licensee, or any other person specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), has been convicted of a crime other than a minor traffic violation, the license may be revoked, unless the director grants an exemption pursuant to subdivision (f).

(5) An applicant and any person specified in subdivision (b) shall submit a second set of fingerprints to the Department of Justice, for the purpose of searching the records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in addition to the search required by subdivision (a). If an applicant meets all other conditions for licensure, except receipt of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's criminal history information for the applicant and persons listed in subdivision (b), the department may issue a license if the applicant and each person described by subdivision (b) has signed and submitted a statement that he or she has never been convicted of a crime in the United States, other than a traffic infraction as defined in paragraph (1) of subdivision (a) of Section 42001 of the Vehicle Code. If, after licensure, the department determines that the licensee or person specified in subdivision (b) has a criminal record, the license may be



revoked pursuant to Section 1569.50. The department may also suspend the license pending an administrative hearing pursuant to Sections 1569.50 and 1569.51.

(b) In addition to the applicant, the provisions of this section shall be applicable to criminal convictions of the following persons:

(1) Adults responsible for administration or direct supervision of staff.

(2) Any person, other than a client, residing in the facility.

(3) Any person who provides client assistance in dressing, grooming, bathing, or personal hygiene. Any nurse assistant or home health aide meeting the requirements of Section 1338.5 or 1736.6, respectively, who is not employed, retained, or contracted by the licensee, and who has been certified or recertified on or after July 1, 1998, shall be deemed to meet the criminal record clearance requirements of this section. A certified nurse assistant and certified home health aide who will be providing client assistance and who falls under this exemption shall provide one copy of his or her current certification, prior to providing care, to the residential care facility for the elderly. The facility shall maintain the copy of the certification on file as long as the care is being provided by the certified nurse assistant or certified home health aide at the facility. Nothing in this paragraph restricts the right of the department to exclude a certified nurse assistant or certified home health aide from a licensed residential care facility for the elderly pursuant to Section 1569.58.

(4) (A) Any staff person, volunteer, or employee who has frequent and routine contact with the clients.

(B) A volunteer shall be exempt from the requirements of this subdivision if he or she is a relative, significant other, or close friend of a client receiving care in the facility and the volunteer is not used to replace or supplement staff in providing direct care and supervision of clients.

(5) If the applicant is a firm, partnership, association, or corporation, the chief executive officer or other person serving in like capacity.

(6) Additional officers of the governing body of the applicant, or other persons with a financial interest in the applicant, as determined necessary by the department by regulation. The criteria used in the development of these regulations shall be based on the person's capability to exercise substantial influence over the operation of the facility.

(c) (1) (A) Subsequent to initial licensure, any person specified in subdivision (b) and not exempted from fingerprinting shall, as a condition to employment, residence, or presence in a residential facility for the elderly, be fingerprinted and sign a declaration under penalty of perjury regarding any prior criminal convictions. The licensee shall submit these fingerprints, along with a second set of fingerprints for the purpose of searching the records of the Federal

Bureau of Investigation, to the Department of Justice, or to comply with paragraph (1) of subdivision (g) prior to the person's employment, residence, or initial presence in the residential care facility for the elderly.

(B) These fingerprints shall be on a card provided by the State Department of Social Services for the purpose of obtaining a permanent set of fingerprints and submitted to the Department of Justice by the licensee or sent by electronic transmission in a manner approved by the State Department of Social Services. A licensee's failure to submit fingerprints to the Department of Justice, or to comply with paragraph (1) of subdivision (g), as required in this section, shall result in the citation of a deficiency and an immediate assessment of civil penalties in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) per violation. The State Department of Social Services may assess civil penalties for continued violations as permitted by Section 1569.49. The fingerprints shall then be submitted to the State Department of Social Services for processing. Documentation of the individual's clearance or exemption shall be maintained by the licensee and be available for inspection. When live-scan technology is operational, as defined in Section 1522.04, the Department of Justice shall notify the department, as required by that section, and notify the licensee by mail within 14 days of electronic transmission of the fingerprints to the Department of Justice, if the person has no criminal record. A violation of the regulations adopted pursuant to Section 1522.04 shall result in the citation of a deficiency and an immediate assessment of civil penalties in the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) per violation. The department may assess civil penalties for continued violations as permitted by Section 1569.49.

(2) Within 14 calendar days of the receipt of the fingerprints, the Department of Justice shall notify the State Department of Social Services of the criminal record information, as provided for in this subdivision. If no criminal record information has been recorded, the Department of Justice shall provide the licensee and the State Department of Social Services with a statement of that fact within 14 calendar days of receipt of the fingerprints. If new fingerprints are required for processing, the Department of Justice shall, within 14 calendar days from the date of receipt of the fingerprints, notify the licensee that the fingerprints were illegible.

(3) Except for persons specified in paragraph (2) of subdivision (b), the licensee shall endeavor to ascertain the previous employment history of persons required to be fingerprinted under this subdivision. If it is determined by the State Department of Social Services, on the basis of the fingerprints submitted to the Department of Justice, that the person has been convicted of a sex offense against a minor, an offense specified in Section 243.4, 273a, or 273d, subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 368 of the Penal Code, or a



felony, the State Department of Social Services shall notify the licensee in writing within 15 calendar days of the receipt of the notification from the Department of Justice to act immediately to terminate the person's employment, remove the person from the residential care facility for the elderly, or bar the person from entering the residential care facility for the elderly. The State Department of Social Services may subsequently grant an exemption pursuant to subdivision (f). If the conviction was for another crime, except a minor traffic violation, the licensee shall, upon notification by the State Department of Social Services, act immediately to either (1) terminate the person's employment, remove the person from the residential care facility for the elderly, or bar the person from entering the residential care facility for the elderly; or (2) seek an exemption pursuant to subdivision (f). The department shall determine if the person shall be allowed to remain in the facility until a decision on the exemption is rendered by the department. A licensee's failure to comply with the department's prohibition of employment, contact with clients, or presence in the facility as required by this paragraph shall be grounds for disciplining the licensee pursuant to Section 1569.50.

(4) The department may issue an exemption on its own motion pursuant to subdivision (f) if the person's criminal history indicates that the person is of good character based on the age, seriousness, and frequency of the conviction or convictions. The department, in consultation with interested parties, shall develop regulations to establish the criteria to grant an exemption pursuant to this paragraph.

(5) Concurrently with notifying the licensee pursuant to paragraph (4), the department shall notify the affected individual of his or her right to seek an exemption pursuant to subdivision (f). The individual may seek an exemption only if the licensee terminates the person's employment or removes the person from the facility after receiving notice from the department pursuant to paragraph (4).

(d) (1) For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, a conviction means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action that the department is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of the sentence, notwithstanding a subsequent order pursuant to the provisions of Sections 1203.4 and 1203.4a of the Penal Code permitting a person to withdraw his or her plea of guilty and to enter a plea of not guilty, or setting aside the verdict of guilty, or dismissing the accusation, information, or indictment. For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, the record of a conviction, or a copy thereof certified by the clerk of the court or by a judge of the court in which



the conviction occurred, shall be conclusive evidence of the conviction. For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, the arrest disposition report certified by the Department of Justice or documents admissible in a criminal action pursuant to Section 969b of the Penal Code shall be prima facie evidence of the conviction, notwithstanding any other provision of law prohibiting the admission of these documents in a civil or administrative action.

(2) For purposes of this section or any other provision of this chapter, the department shall consider criminal convictions from another state or federal court as if the criminal offense was committed in this state.

(e) The State Department of Social Services shall not use a record of arrest to deny, revoke, or terminate any application, license, employment, or residence unless the department investigates the incident and secures evidence, whether or not related to the incident of arrest, that is admissible in an administrative hearing to establish conduct by the person that may pose a risk to the health and safety of any person who is or may become a client. The State Department of Social Services is authorized to obtain any arrest or conviction records or reports from any law enforcement agency as necessary to the performance of its duties to inspect, license, and investigate community care facilities and individuals associated with a community care facility.

(f) (1) After review of the record, the director may grant an exemption from disqualification for a license as specified in paragraphs (1) and (4) of subdivision (a), or for employment, residence, or presence in a residential care facility for the elderly as specified in paragraphs (4), (5), and (6) of subdivision (c) if the director has substantial and convincing evidence to support a reasonable belief that the applicant and the person convicted of the crime, if other than the applicant, are of such good character as to justify issuance of the license or special permit or granting an exemption for purposes of subdivision (c). However, no exemption shall be granted pursuant to this subdivision if the conviction was for an offense specified in Section 220, 243.4, or 264.1, subdivision (a) of Section 273a or, prior to January 1, 1994, paragraph (1) of Section 273a, Section 273d, 288, or 289, subdivision (a) of Section 290, or subdivision (a) or (b) of Section 368 of the Penal Code, or was a conviction of another crime against an individual specified in subdivision (c) of Section 667.5 of the Penal Code. The director shall notify in writing the licensee or the applicant of his or her decision within 60 days of receipt of all information from the applicant and other sources determined necessary by the director for the rendering of a decision pursuant to this subdivision.

(2) The department shall not prohibit a person from being employed or having contact with clients in a facility on the basis of a denied criminal record exemption request or arrest information

unless the department complies with the requirements of Section 1569.58.

(g) (1) For purposes of compliance with this section, the department may permit an individual to transfer a current criminal records clearance, as defined in subdivision (a), from one facility to another, as long as the criminal record clearance has been processed through a state licensing district office, and is being transferred to another state licensing district office. The request shall be submitted, in writing to the department, and shall include a copy of the person's driver's license or valid identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles, or a valid photo identification issued by another state or the United States government if the person is not a California resident. Upon request of the licensee, who shall enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for this purpose, the department shall verify whether the individual has a clearance that can be transferred.

(2) The State Department of Social Services shall hold criminal records clearances in its active files for a minimum of two years after an employee is no longer employed at a licensed facility in order for the criminal records clearances to be transferred under this section.

(h) If a licensee or facility is required by law to deny employment or to terminate employment of any employee based on written notification from the state department that the employee has a prior criminal conviction or is determined unsuitable for employment under Section 1569.58, the licensee or facility shall not incur civil liability or unemployment insurance liability as a result of that denial or termination.

(i) Amendments to the provisions of this section made in the 1998 calendar year shall be implemented commencing 60 days after the effective date of the act amending this section in the 1998 calendar year, except those provisions for the submission of fingerprints for searching the records of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which shall be implemented commencing January 1, 1999.

SEC. 6. Section 1569.725 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

1569.725. (a) A residential care facility for the elderly may permit incidental medical services to be provided through a home health agency, licensed pursuant to Chapter 8 (commencing with Section 1725), when all of the following conditions are met:

(1) The facility, in the judgment of the department, has the ability to provide the supporting care and supervision appropriate to meet the needs of the resident receiving care from a home health agency.

(2) The home health agency has been advised of the regulations pertaining to residential care facilities for the elderly and the requirements related to incidental medical services being provided in the facility.

(3) There is evidence of an agreed-upon protocol between the home health agency and the residential care facility for the elderly. The protocol shall address areas of responsibility of the home health agency and the facility and the need for communication and the sharing of resident information related to the home health care plan. Resident information may be shared between the home health agency and the residential care facility for the elderly relative to the resident's medical condition and the care and treatment provided to the resident by the home health agency including, but not limited to, medical information, as defined by the Confidentiality of Medical Information Act, Part 2.6 (commencing with Section 56) of Division 1 of the Civil Code.

(4) There is ongoing communication between the home health agency and the residential care facility for the elderly about the services provided to the resident by the home health agency and the frequency and duration of care to be provided.

(b) Nothing in this section is intended to expand the scope of care and supervision for a residential care facility for the elderly, as prescribed by this chapter.

(c) Nothing in this section shall require any care or supervision to be provided by the residential care facility for the elderly beyond that which is permitted in this chapter.

(d) The department shall not be responsible for the evaluation of medical services provided to the resident of the residential care facility for the elderly by the home health agency.

(e) Any regulations, policies, or procedures related to sharing resident information and development of protocols, established by the department pursuant to this section, shall be developed in consultation with the State Department of Health Services and persons representing home health agencies and residential care facilities for the elderly.

SEC. 7. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution.

Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act shall become operative on the same date that the act takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.

